



NEWS

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**For Immediate Release
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Public Comment Period Begins

LaSaffre Yeast Corporation (formerly Red Star Yeast or Universal Foods) Gets Preliminary OK for Title V Permit Renewal

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) has made a preliminary decision to renew the Title V permit for the LaSaffre Yeast Corporation (formerly Red Star Yeast or Universal Foods) located at 1384 N 5th Street in Oakland. LaSaffre Yeast Corp. is a commercial yeast manufacturer. Yeast is produced in a fermentation process. Fermentation is a natural biological process that produces, as a byproduct, organic gases, including ethanol and acetaldehyde.

The public comment period is from May 18 until July 20th, 2002. During the public comment period, any member of the public may comment on any aspect of the proposed permit. A copy of the proposed permit can be found:

- 1) At the Oakland Public Library branches at 125 14th Street and 1801 Adeline Street in Oakland,
- 2) In the Air District library at 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco and
- 3) On the Air District web site at www.baaqmd.gov. (follow the Title V links).
- 4) For a hard copy of the permit, call the Air District's Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900 or write to: BAAQMD, Attn: Title V Permit Request, 939 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

The Air District will hold a community meeting on Title V and Red Star Yeast on Monday, May 20th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the West Oakland Multi-Service Center, 1801 Adeline Street, Oakland. This will be followed by a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed permit renewal on June 20th, 2002. The public hearing will be held in the auditorium of the Prescott Elementary School at 920 Campbell in Oakland from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

What is Title V?

Title V is part of the 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act, and requires all state and local governments to develop and implement operating permits for all major pollution emitting facilities. The EPA oversees these permit programs and the Air District is charged with implementing them in the Bay Area, in accordance with Federal guidelines.

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Title V is intended to clarify the complex air quality permitting process by consolidating the multitude of federal, state, and local air pollution control regulations into one summary operating permit that covers all aspects of a facility's year-to-year air pollution activities. The Title V operating permit program is implemented under Air District Regulation 2, Rule 6.

Public comment is important to the Title V process. A final decision will incorporate consideration of public comments on the proposal.

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